

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 02761 170645Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02761

USEEC

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: EEWT, EFIN, UK, PL, NATO
SUBJECT: ECONADS: VISIT OF UK TRADE MINISTER DELL TO
WARSAW

REF: (A) WARSAW 2168 (PASSED USEC); (B)USNATO 2529(NOTAL)

1. AT MARCH 9 ECONADS MEETING UK REP COMENTED IN SOME
DETAIL ON DELL'S FEB 20-22 VISIT TO WARSAW,
AND WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY LATER TO REVIEW UK
EMBASSY WARSAW REPORTING MESSAGE, WHICH PARALLELED CLOSELY
THE READOUT IN REF A. IN ADDITION TO OLSZEWSKI, DELL
ALSO SAW FINANCE MINISTER KISIEL AND MINISTER OF METAL-
LURGY KAIM.

2. FURTHER TO PARA 3 AND 5 OF WARSAW'S MESSAGE,
OLSZEWSKI SAID THAT REPORTS OF A DELIBERATE SHIFT
OF POLISH TRADE TOWARDS CEMA COUNTRIES WERE UNTRUE,
BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ON OCCASION IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY
"TO CUT IMPORTS FROM CERTAIN DIRECTIONS BECAUSE OF THE
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PAGE 02 USNATO 02761 170645Z

FINANCIAL SITUATION." THE POLISH GOAL, HE SAID, WAS
EXPANSION OF TRADE TOWARDS BOTH EAST AND WEST.

3. FINANCE MINISTER KISIEL DESCRIBED RECENT DIFFICULTIES,
INCLUDING A POOR HARVEST AND AN UNFAVORABLE TREND IN TERMS
OF TRADE, "WHICH HAD LED TO POLAND REACHING THE ACCEPTABLE
LIMIT FOR ITS DEBT SERVICE RATIO". IN RESPONSE, POLAND

HAD TO IMPOSE EXTRA IMPORT CUTS IN 1977 AND A FURTHER CUT OF 3 PERCENT IN 1978. WITH THE EXPECTED 10-12 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH OF POLISH EXPORTS, HE HOPED TRADE WOULD BE INBALANCE IN 1970, THAT A SURPLUS WOULD BE ACHIEVED IN 1980, AND THAT POLAND WOULD REMAIN IN SURPLUS AT LEAST UNTIL 1983. AS NOTED IN WARSAW'S MESSAGE, EVEN MORE STRINGENT IMPORT CUTS WOULD BE APPLIED IF NECESSARY, EVEN AT THE COST OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED.

4. INTERESTINGLY, SO FAR AS UK ECONAD HERE COULD JUDGE, THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO THE UK/POLISH SHIP CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DURING DELL'S VISIT. WITH RESPECT TO THE 60 MILLION CREDIT, THE POLES SUGGESTED DELICATELY THAT THE UK WAS BEING "LESS GENEROUS" THAN OTHER WESTERN TRADE PARTNERS.

5. AS TO THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS FOR POLISH PRODUCTS ON EC MARKETS, AS WELL AS STEEL, WERE CITED AS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL FOR THE POLES. BENNETT

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